

MINUTES AND REPORT

OF

MEETING OF COUNCIL

COOPERATIVE FEDERATION OF VICTORIA

held at 369 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne on Monday, 31st March 1980 commencing 7 p.m.

1. PRESENT

Mr. M. Rundle  
Mr. J. N. Black  
Mr. E. J. Long  
Mr. B. H. Macintosh  
Mr. W. W. Rawlinson

Chairman

Apologies for absence received from:

Executive Officer

Mr. K. D. Currey  
Mr. N. Harvey  
Mr. J. Rigby  
Mr. O. J. Slattery

2. QUORUM

The Chairman ruled that as a quorum was not present the meeting would convene as a Committee of the Council with proceedings to be ratified at the next full meeting of the Council.

3. MINUTES

Confirmation of the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 18th February 1980 was deferred to the next meeting.

4. MATTERS ARISING

4.i Minute 3.v - Financial Administrators

One member of the Planning Committee has left the Cooperative sector. Pending reconstitution of the committee, meetings have been in abeyance.

4.ii Minute 3.iv - Planning Workshop

Mr. McLoughlin has agreed to act as co-ordinator for the Council's Planning Workshop scheduled for 8th June 1980.

4.iii Minute 10.i.iv - Staff

Mrs. Anne Loban commenced duties as part-time (3 days per week) Secretary/Office Assistant on 25th February 1980.



4.iv Minute 11 - Visit of K. D. Naden

Mr. Naden visited Melbourne as planned at no cost to the Federation.

He addressed a meeting of Cooperative leaders, including three from South Australia. A copy of his address will be circulated.

Publicity was provided by the ABC Rural Dept.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

5.i From T. D. Noone Sales re manufacture and supply of Club ties and blazers -  
Noted.

5.ii To Dr. Maddocks, Assistant Director General, Education Dept.  
Confirming discussions on Cooperatives in Schools.

5.iii From and to Director, Victorian Employment Committee.  
Advising of review of objectives and operations of Committee. In view of the report to the last meeting of Council the meeting recommended the Minister, as Chairman of the Victorian Employment Committee, be formally advised of the Federation's concern on

- (a) Lack of progress with administration and disbursement of funds approved by the Committee for Cooperatives;
- (b) Lack of suitable Workers' Compensation cover for members of Worker Cooperatives;
- (c) failure of the Committee to produce promotional material and guide books to assist potential groups considering formation of Workers Cooperatives;
- (d) failure of the Government to utilise the structure of the Cooperative Federation of Victoria by funding one full-time officer to assist potential and formed worker cooperatives in sound administration and development.

5.iv From Nunawading Work Cooperative

Progress report.

5.v From Sister Brigida, Greenhills Community Education Centre.  
Re formation of Cooperative for education & training of aboriginal youth. Recommended continuance of the Foundation as a Company limited by guarantee with Federation services available as required.



6. FINANCIAL

A statement of income-expenditure from 1.7.79 to 31.3.80 and estimated balance sheet, as at 31.3.80, was submitted to the meeting, discussed and recommended for adoption.

7. MEMBERSHIP

An application for membership, supported by Rules, Annual Report and relevant affiliation fee was received from Edenhope Cooperative Society.

The documents being in order, the meeting recommended admittance of the Cooperative into membership of the Federation.

8. LEGISLATION

8.i

Mr. Rawlinson reported that copies of the Council's views on amendments to the Cooperation Act proposed by VCCA had been submitted to the Registrar, President and General Manager of V.C.C.A.

Mr. Long reported that the Cooperative Advisory Council at its March meeting had received copies of the Registrar's proposals for amendments to the Act covering recommendations from a variety of sources, including C.F.V. and V.C.C.A. The copy was in general layman terms, was requested to be kept confidential and had been submitted to the Chief Parliamentary Draughtsman for preparation of a Bill for presentation to Parliament.

The meeting directed action be taken forthwith for the President to obtain the Minister's undertaking that the Federation will have the opportunity to study the formally drafted amendments before their introduction into Parliament.

8.ii

The Legislation Committee had not met to consider Constitutional amendments but recommendations from the Bendigo Regional Meeting on the subject will be considered by the Committee.

9. REGIONAL MEETINGS

Mr. Long reported on the successful meeting held at Bendigo on 26th March 1980 for which 43 nominations were received.

A local committee was formed to ensure continued contact between Cooperatives in the District. The question of Regional representation on the Federation's Council was submitted for consideration by Council.

The Committee agreed to work to convening two more Regional meetings before 30.6.80, one in Goulburn Valley at Shepparton and one in Mildura for Riverland Cooperatives.



10. COOPERATIVES IN SCHOOLS

Mr. Rawlinson reported the Education Department is currently studying the submission from the Federation on the desirability of forming and developing Cooperatives in Schools and in providing education and training for teachers in the subject of Cooperation and organisation of Cooperatives in Teacher Training Colleges.

One school in the Doncaster-Templestowe-City area is in the process of forming its own informal student operated, funded and controlled Cooperative.

11. REPORTS

11.i Cooperative Advisory Council

Mr. Long reported that Mr. John Wenn of the Treasury has been appointed to the Council to succeed Mr. Peter Wade as Treasury representative.

Talinga Home Buyers Cooperative No.5 is still experiencing difficulties.

In view of the requested confidentiality of the Registrar's legislative amendments and the time factor involved in introduction into the current session of Parliament, it was agreed Mr. Long, as a member of the Cooperative Advisory Council, should formally advise the Registrar of his views on the matters submitted.

Mr. Long was asked to ascertain the policy of the Registrar relating to inspections of Trading and Producer Cooperatives.

11.ii Executive Officer

(a) Mr. Rawlinson reported having circulated 5 Cooperative Hotels suggesting a one day seminar for Directors and Management. One reply has been received to date.

(b) He visited Edenhope with Mr. Quinlan when the Board agreed to a detailed survey of their affairs being made. A team from Morwell Cooperative led by Mr. Macintosh promptly attended to the request. The recommendation from the survey is that the Cooperative cease trading and dispose of its assets. The Board has been so advised.

The meeting recorded its appreciation to Mr. Macintosh and his team for this service.

(c) He participated in a meeting and has been elected to a committee in the Doncaster-Templestowe-City concerned with employment generating Cooperatives and school Cooperatives.



(d) He attended a promotional meeting for the formation of a Community Advancement Cooperative by the Victorian Game Fishing Club.

(e) He has had discussions and will attend a meeting concerned with possible formation of a consumers' trading Cooperative on a major housing estate in Broadmeadows.

#### 11.iii Cooperative Federation of Australia

Mr. Long advised the meeting of discussions of the Council of the C.F.A. on future plans. He tabled a copy of the relevant minute on this topic which is reproduced for the record of Council of this Federation:

#### 6. FUTURE PLANS

A letter from the Cooperative Federation of Western Australia confirming the Statement recorded in Minute 12 of the last meeting had been circulated to all members.

The following resolution passed by the 60th Annual Conference of the Cooperative Federation of Western Australia was submitted to the Council by Mr. Sutherland.

This conference recommends to the Council of the Cooperative Federation of Australia:-

1. That a Canberra office be re-established by January 1981 with its activities to be action oriented. These activities to concentrate, amongst other things on:-

Public Relations  
Lobbying  
Information Services for members

2. That the Constitution of the Cooperative Federation of Australia be updated to include provision for direct membership in addition to State Federations.
3. A progress report on these two items would be appreciated by the end of June 1980.

The President opened the subject for discussion by advising Council of the voiced disenchantment of members of the Cooperative Federation of Western Australia as one member of the Cooperative Federation of Australia currently funding its expense budget to the extent of 50%. He stated the Western Australian Federation would not be interested in reducing its contribution to a nominal figure to fund a nominal organisation. The requirements of members of the Western Australian Cooperative Federation are for a well funded



national body able to actively and aggressively service the needs of Australian Cooperatives in the Federal Capital.

Mr. Hunter expressed the view that a past and current weakness of Cooperative promotional and legislative protection services has been the attachment of Cooperative organisations to relevant industry bodies whose main activities are specifically industry orientated with little attention being given to the Cooperative sector of the industry. He considered a prime requirement is for a national Cooperative Public Relations lobby located in Canberra whose sole activity is concern for the Cooperative sector of the economy covering all or any industry in that sector.

#### In general discussion

Victoria indicated opposition to the proposal for direct membership on the grounds that such system could jeopardise future development of its State Federation now only in its second year of active operation.

New South Wales indicated its State Federation whilst progressing well is not likely to be really self-sufficient for another three years and, whilst not opposing the principle of re-establishment of a Cooperative lobby in Canberra, given sufficient indication of a positive programme for achievement, opposed the proposal for direct membership of the Federation and an early setting up of an independent Cooperative lobby in Canberra.

Queensland opposed the proposal on the grounds that any changes to the Constitution to provide for direct membership could weaken and even destroy the existing State Federation structures. Strongly based State Federations were considered to be an essential pre-requisite to future development of a Cooperative centre in Canberra.

South Australia opposed the proposal on the grounds that no new circumstances were apparent to suggest the need to re-establish the Canberra centre and lack of finance precluded consideration of this as a practical possibility. It was considered that if situations arose warranting active lobbying in Canberra they could be handled from the present location.

Western Australia considered individual Cooperatives should have the right to decide their requirements of a national Cooperative lobbying centre and to have an ability to communicate direct with their Cooperative centre.

Council considered the possibility of using the lobbying services of the National Farmers' Federation on a fee paying basis for services to be controlled and directed by the Cooperative Federation of Australia from its Melbourne based Secretariat.

The Cooperative Federation of Western Australia anticipated its rate of subscription will be unchanged before 31st December 1980.



*The C.F.W.A. agreed to submit to the Council a projected Corporate plan for a restructured operation of the Cooperative Federation of Australia whose major function would be lobbying in Federal Government and which would provide for direct membership.*

The Committee endorsed the policy of the Federation as presented to the C.F.A. by Mr. Long.

The Committee directed an early meeting be arranged between the President, C.F.A. and office bearers of C.F.V. on the subject of the joint agreement for joint use of secretariat services.

## 12. OTHER BUSINESS

### 12.i Victorian Producers Cooperative

Edition No.1 Copy No.1 of a new member relations publication by V.P.C. was tabled for information.

### 12.ii Trust Funds

The Committee directed the Executive Officer to explore the possibility of obtaining financial assistance from miscellaneous Trust Funds to undertake educational and promotional studies.

### 12.iii Cooperative Farmers & Graziers Direct Meat Supply

The meeting considered the matter of assistance to C.F. & G. despite its non-membership. The Executive Officer was directed to contact Mr. Heffernan, Board Member, to ascertain if any and what kind of assistance might be beneficial to C.F. & G.

### 12.iv Cooperative Principles

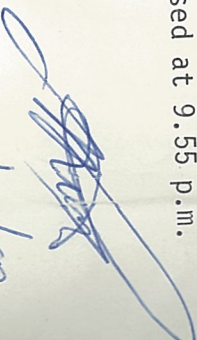
Mr. Macintosh tabled a list of the essential principles of Cooperation and recommended they be reproduced in poster style for display at Federation Regional and Annual Meetings and by member Cooperatives.

## 13. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Council was set for 21st April 1980 at 369 Lonsdale Street, commencing 7 p.m.

## 14. CLOSURE

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.55 p.m.

  
8/6/80